

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 596 134-5	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated 2. 3.	1866..

Not to be folded or roughly handled

File

No. 134. Read the following letter from the Conservator of Forests, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 2nd March 1866, No. 1,627 :—

1. During my late journeys on the Madras Railway, I have been struck with the favorable growth of wood in the Palghat gap, and observed that fuel is conveyed by almost every train from the west of Coimbatore eastwards as far as Errode.

2. The wooded country occupying the notch between the Koondah and Anamallay ranges was famous for wild elephants, but the extended cultivation along the line, and the increasing demand for wood have jointly contributed to clear the primeval forests, and there is now only a thin scattered jungle.

3. The land west of Palghat is entirely private property, and in the Coimbatore District the jungle is being rapidly taken up for cultivation, both in the vicinity of Walliar and in the adjoining valleys of Anamallay and Bolumpetty.

4. The question of Railway fuel is daily forcing itself upon the attention of the different administrations of the empire, and after much reflection as to the prospective wants of this Presidency, I beg to suggest that a compact block, say 5,000 to 6,000 acres, be reserved at once, not for skilled and expensive planting, but for the spontaneous and unrestrained reproduction of wood. The provision of a constant supply of fuel at Palghat calls for careful consideration—See the annexed Extract of letter from the Locomotive Superintendent to the Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated 21st December last, No. 265.

5. The Collector suggested the course now recommended, and has offered to assist me in the matter; I request that he be empowered to take the necessary steps. I limit my application to the extent specified at present, but the Collector might be instructed to inquire what amount of land is available, without prejudice to existing rights.

6. It is desirable that the land taken up be, as near as possible, to the western limits of the Coimbatore District, the moisture being greater on the verge of the ghâts, and it should, if possible, be close to the Walliar station.

7. I have just returned from Nellore, and have seen in a much drier climate the successful management of a reserved tract, the productiveness of the jungle being much increased by excluding cattle, clearing away creepers, and other simple measures of conservancy.

Extract of letter from the Locomotive Superintendent, No. 265, dated 21st December 1865.

6. "We have just commenced burning wood between Palghat and Beypoor, so that our issues from Palghat will be greatly increased. We shall probably require an additional monthly supply of about 1,200,000 lbs. for that portion of the line."

No. 135. ORDER THEREON, 8th March 1866, No. 596.

Forests, No. 5.

The Board of Revenue will instruct the Collector of Coimbatore to mark off and reserve the land referred to by the Conservator, who will report in due course his arrangements for preserving and working the tract. It would be desirable to have similar reserves in other suitable localities.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Conservator of Forests.

Erd. S. T. Augustin.

*H. Clapham
Conservator of Forests*

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I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servant

H. Clegdon
Conservator of Forests

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